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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: July 3, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Bishop

SUBJECT : MURKIN

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Ebony" magazine, with which we had cordial contacts, has forwarded letters from a long-time convict, [redacted] RAYMOND CURTIS which [redacted] CURTIS makes reference to his prison association with James Earl Ray, their plans to kill King and regarding businessmen putting up money to have King killed. [redacted] CURTIS who was described by his former defense attorney as a liar and cheat, previously furnished similar information on which logical investigation was conducted and nothing of substantive value was developed.

Atlanta has been instructed to reinterview [redacted] CURTIS to pin him down once and for all and anything of pertinence will be run out. "Ebony" magazine is being advised that results of [redacted] CURTIS' interview will be furnished Civil Rights Division.

BACKGROUND:

Bureau is in receipt of a letter from [redacted] "Ebony" magazine, enclosing two semi-literate letters from [redacted] RAYMOND CURTIS an inmate of Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia. [redacted] In his letters, claims to have information on the King murder and [redacted] suggests we may want to check into [redacted] CURTIS story and [redacted] requests to be furnished any information resulting from our inquiries which can be released.

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[redacted] CURTIS alleges he was a former inmate with Ray, discussed killing King over the course of three years and a group of "KK" businessmen covering five states were to put up the money for the King killing.

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Enclosure

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Memo Rosen to DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

CURTIS
[redacted] indicates he has written a book on this and he did not tell the FBI all he knows.

Bureau files indicate we have had cordial relations with "Ebony" magazine.

CURTIS
[redacted] a long-time convict, was previously interviewed in the King case. He was an inmate in prison at the same time as Ray in approximately 1962 - 1966. He made allegations relating to a mysterious visitor of Ray while Ray was in prison, that a "bounty" had been put on President John F. Kennedy's head and the "KK of the South" had raised a million dollar bounty from businessmen for King's head.

Logical investigation was conducted on the nebulous information furnished by [redacted] CURTIS without developing substantive information of value. A previous defense attorney advised that [redacted] CURTIS would lie, steal and commit other crimes to further his own interest.

ACTION BEING TAKEN:

1. In order to fully resolve any information he claims to have in the King case, the Atlanta Office has been instructed to reinterview [redacted] CURTIS for full details and pin him down. Any pertinent information of substance will be fully run out. Results of interview and any additional inquiries will be furnished the Civil Rights Division.

2. Attached for approval is a letter to [redacted] of "Ebony" magazine advising him that results of any interview will be forwarded to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.